

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13483

LIMDIS

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CSCE, VT
SUBJECT: BILATERAL APPROACHES ON SOVIET TRIALS

REF: STATE 179532

1. WE MADE POINTS IN PARA 4 REFTEL TODAY TO
VATICAN FOREIGN MINISTER CASAROLI. CASAROLI
EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS
IN CONTEXT CSCE PROCESS AND IN TURN MADE SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS.

2. VATICAN, HE SAID, THROUGH POPE PAUL'S STATEMENT
ON JULY 16 JOINED (ROME 13123), THE CIVILIZED COMMUNITY IN
CALLING ATTENTION TO HELSINKI AND THE SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS
OF SOVIET TRIALS OF DISSIDENTS. THROUGH THIS EFFORT,
HE CONTINUED, VATICAN PUBLICLY RECOGNIZED CONTINUING
VALUE OF PROCESS OF DETENTE AND ALSO PRIMORDIAL VALUE
OF SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE. SINCE
HOLY SEE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF PROCESS DID NOT
HARBOR ILLUSIONS THAT CSCE PROCESS WOULD IN SHORT RUN
PRODUCE RADICAL CHANGES IN TOTALITARIAN SYSTEMS, IT
HAS NOT BEEN SURPRISED THAT THE USSR AND OTHER EASTERN
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EUROPEAN STATES HAVE REACTED WITH RIGIDITY IN THE FACE OF
DISSIDENT CHALLENGES AT HOME AND TO CRITICISM FROM ABROAD.
IN THIS CONTEXT, HE SAID, THE VATICAN FULLY UNDERSTANDS USG
APPROACH TO THE SOVIET DISSIDENT TRIALS. THE US
HAS SHOWN CORRECT AND EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP ON THE ISSUE.
WITH REGARD TO FURTHER ACTIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN UNDER
THE UMBRELLA OF THE CSCE PROCESS, CASAROLI SAID THAT WHILE

HE HAD NOTHING SPECIFIC TO RECOMMEND HE WANTED TO SUGGEST THAT
WHATEVER IS UNDERTAKEN SHOULD AVOID FURTHER RIGIDIFYING
ACTIONS OF EASTERN REGIMES AND AT SAME TIME AVOID IMPRESSION THAT
WEST IGNORES VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OR VIOLATIONS TO SOLEMN
COMMITMENTS MADE BY THE CSCE STATES AT HELSINKI. FINDING A
"JUST WAY" BETWEEN THESE TWO IS DIFFICULT TASK BUT IT IS
NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDING TO CASSAROLI, AN ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT
FOR WESTERN STATESMANSHIP. GARDNER

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